

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
-----161449Z 064179 /53

R 161420Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4051
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0489

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, FR, US, UK
SUBJECT: FRENCH REBUFF EAST GERMAN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE WALL

1. SENAT INFORMED CHAIRMAN (US) LIAISON OFFICER FEB.
10 THAT EAST GERMANS WANTED TO ADD SEVERAL ROWS OF BARBED
WIRE TO TOP OF THE WIRE MESH FENCE STANDING UNDER RAILROAD
BRIDGE BETWEEN FRENCH AND SOVIET SECTORS. THIS INFORMATION
WAS PASSED TO WEST BERLIN POLICE ON THE SCENE BY REICHS-
BAHN PERSONNEL, WHO STATED THAT SINCE THER WAS NOT
SUFFICIENT ROOM ON EASTERN SIDE TO CARRY OUT THE WORK,
EAST GERMANS INTENDED TO PERFORM IT FROM THE WESTERN SIDE,
WHICH WOULD BE ON REICHSBAHN PROPERTY.

2. THE WEST BERLIN POLICEMEN MISTAKENLY CONCLUDED THAT
SINCE REICHSBAHN PROPERTY WAS INVOLVED THERE WAS NO
OBJECTION TO PERMITTING THE WORK. THE SENAT QUICKLY
POINTED OUT TO US THAT EAST GERMANS COULD NOT BE PER-
MITTED TO CARRY OU WORK IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF
BERLIN WHICH HAD THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING ESCAPES.
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AS THE PROBLEM INVOLVED REICHSBAHN PROPERTY, OVER WHICH
THE ALLIES EXERCISE CONTROL, THE SENAT ASKED FOR OUR
INTERCESSION. THE FRENCH IMMEDIATELY SENT A PATROL
OF GENDARMES TO THE SCENE WHERE THEY RECEIVED A REQUEST
FOR THE FRENCH COMMANDANT TO AUTHORIZE THE WORK. FRENCH
REJECTED THIS REQUEST AND PATROL MAINTAINED SURVEILLANCE
OF THE LOCATION, UNTIL WEST BERLIN POLICE, AT PERMANENT

POST ON THE SCENE, WERE INSTRUCTED TO DENY ANY FURTHER REQUESTS. ON FEBRUARY 14 REICHSBAHN EMPLOYEES ASKED POLICE WHETHER " ALLIED AUTHORIZATION" GRANTED. WHEN TOLD NO, THE RAILWAYMEN RETIRED, RESIGNEDLY COMPLAINING ABOUT THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY OF ACCOMPLISHING WORK FROM THE EAST SIDE.
GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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